## Suave' To The Maxx

Listening to Suave's new album, To The Maxx gives no clue to the kind of courage and dedication that was needed to complete the two-year project. The music is as tough as ever, the vocal performances strong and assured. From the single "Rocked Your "Boots" to the infectious "Dog Me Out" and the plaintive "Let Me In Your World," Suave jams.

"I worked with a truly wonderful group of guys: Michael Angelo Saulsberry, Eric Kirkland, Phillip Johnson and Irving Washington III are four very talented writers, producers and artists in their own right," says Suave of his associates, all of whom are signed to his production company, Suave's First Production, and will soon produce their own Capitol album as the group Portrait. "Andre Wilson, the son of The Gap Band's Ronnie Wilson co-produced the album with me," Suave says proudly. "These guys just wouldn't let me give up. They kept pushing me onward to finish this album, and without them, I don't know if I could have completed it."

Young, cool and sharp, Suave burst onto the music scene in 1988 with his tantalizing and hypnotic hip-hop version of The Temptations classic "My Girl," hitting the Top 20 and #3 slot on the R&B chart. The follow-up single, "Shake Your Body." was another strong black music side and Suave's engaging debut album, I'm Your Playmate, earned him a slew of fans. Soon he was on the road performing with top R&B artists like Roger Troutmen, Troop and Guy.

Suave was ready to follow that initial success with another great album, and once back from his 1988 tour, the stylish 22-year-old singer/songwriter/producer began work on his second Capitol album. "I wanted to get on with my music, and was able to, thanks to tremendous support from my friends."

Born in Reno, Nevada, Suave grew up in South Central Los Angeles, easily one of the city's toughest neighborhoods. "But my grandmother, Genora Simmons, made sure that I grew up in a positive atmospher," notes Suave. "She instilled in me the kind of values that have helped me make it through everything."

At a young age, Suave discovered such great vocalists as Marvin Gaye, Donny Hathaway, Teddy Pendergrass and The Gap Band's Charlie Wilson, one of his all-time heroes. Fulfilling Suave's lifelong dream, Wilson joins Suave on the To The Maxx duet, "Zero."

After spending two years in the military, Suave returned to Los Angeles and began working on some musical ideas. "I chose "My Girl" because it was my uncle's favorite. I never forgot when he taught me to drive. The Temptations' version of that song was on a tape we were listening to, so I wanted to do the tune as a tribue."

When Capitol executives heard Suave's bold and innovative reading of the Motown chestnut, they signed the multi-talented artist to a long-term contract. Suave co-produced his successful debut album, at the same time setting up his own production and publishing companies to provide an avenue for other talented young writers, producers and artists. Of his immediate success in 1987, Suave notes, "It was non-stop. No sooner had the record hit the charts than I was out on the road performing within just a few months. To say it was hectic would be a real understatement!'

Suddenly, Suave's future plans were threaten when, in 1988, he was diagnosed with lung cancer. But rather than cause Suave to hang it up, the illness prompted him to put into practice an optimistic philosophy of perseverance. "It took the belief of everybody who was involved in making To The Maxx. The whole concept of the title song is that i'm going to go all the way. I'm going to take my life to the maxx. I'm I'm not about to give up."

Other songs of special significance



include "Girl, You Got Me Goin" which he says is "my favorite track on the album because it's so funky. It's about a guy who's literally going out of his mind over this girl," The track"Special Lady, Special Friend," says Suave, "is dedicated to someone who has really stuck by me through thick and thin. "Suave's duet with the legendary Charlie Willson, "Zero," is another song holding great meaning. "I was feeling down about myself, but Charlie put it to me straight when he said 'When you let your dream die, you die.' The song says 'I'm not your zero, i'm your hero,' and having a person of his musical stature singing with me was just incredible."

With the support of Capitol executives like Chairman Joe Smith, Hale Milgrim and R&B hitmakers such as Marlon Jackson, Chuckii Booker and Troop, Suave says he's been encouraged "to fight and pull through. With To The Maxx i'm telling people, especially young people, 'Hey, I've seen all sides of life, I know about peer pressure, and I know what it takes to survive."

The funky grooves and tender ballads of Suave's To The Maxx is a musical testament to the strength of an incredibly courageous and talented young man who is committed to spreading an important message. "Through this album, I want to give people hope," he says. "I want to show folks that faith works and that they too can create something to live for."

## Oregon Ballet Theatre Announces Nutcracker Auditions

Oregon Ballet Theatre is seeking boys ages 5-13, to audition for nondancing roles in the company's 1991 production of NUTCRACKER.

Auditions are scheduled for Saturday, September 21, from 2:30 to 3:00 p.m. in OBT's studios, located in the Masonic Temple at 1120 SW Tenth Avenue in Portland.

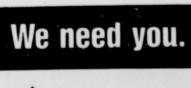
Selected boys will appear in the ACT I party scene with members of the professional company and are required to be available for all rehearsals and the entire run of the ballet, which is slated for 16 performances. December 13-24, at Portland Civic Auditorium. Evening performances are scheduled on December 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23. Matinees are on December 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, and 24. Rehearsals are scheduled on Saturdays, beginning in October and running through December.

For further information, call (503) 227-0977.

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